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# ICYMI: President Obama Appoints Governor O'Malley to Task Force on Climate Preparedness

November 1st, 2013

"Maryland is among the states most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including severe weather and sea-level rise. We have an obligation to do all we can to protect our land, infrastructure, and most importantly our citizens, and to make sure we are safe and prepared. That is why Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan includes a [comprehensive climate adaptation strategy](#), and is why I signed an [Executive Order](#) last December to make our State more resilient to climate change. President Obama has been a strong leader on emphasizing renewable energy, improving air quality, and mitigating the effects of severe weather. It is an honor to serve on his task force," said **Governor O'Malley**.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2013

## **FACT SHEET: Executive Order on Climate Preparedness**

### ***President Obama Establishes a Task Force on Climate***

*"We're going to need to get prepared. And that's why this plan will also protect critical sectors of our economy and prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid. States and cities across the country are already taking it upon themselves to get ready... And we'll partner with communities seeking help to prepare for droughts and floods, reduce the risk of wildfires, protect the dunes and wetlands that pull double duty as green space and as natural storm barriers." – President Barack Obama, June 25, 2013*

Today, President Obama established a Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can

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respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. The Task Force members include state, local and tribal leaders from across the country who will use their first-hand experiences in building climate preparedness and resilience in their communities to inform their recommendations to the Administration.

The President signed an Executive Order that directs Federal agencies to take a series of steps to make it easier for American communities to strengthen their resilience to extreme weather and prepare for other impacts of climate change.

President Obama has said that we have a moral obligation to our children and future generations to leave them a planet that is not polluted or damaged. That is why in June, the President launched a Climate Action Plan to cut carbon pollution, prepare communities for the impacts of climate change, and lead international efforts to address this global challenge. The Climate Action Plan recognizes that even as we act to curb the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, we must also improve our ability to prepare for the climate impacts we are already seeing across the country. Across America, states, cities, and communities are taking steps to protect themselves from extreme weather and other climate impacts by updating building codes, adjusting the way they manage natural resources, investing in more resilient infrastructure, and planning for rapid recovery from damages that nonetheless occur.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in supporting community-based preparedness and resilience efforts by establishing policies and prioritizing investments that promote preparedness, protecting critical infrastructure and public resources, supporting science and research needed to prepare for climate impacts, and ensuring that Federal operations and facilities continue to protect and serve citizens in a changing climate.

### **State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience**

State, local and tribal leaders across the country are already contending with more frequent or severe heat waves, droughts, wildfires, storms and floods, and other impacts of climate change. The Task Force will provide recommendations to the President on removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing Federal grant and loan programs to better support local efforts, and developing the information and tools they need to prepare.

Task Force members comprise governors, mayors, county officials and tribal leaders, representing a diverse range of communities. The members of the Task Force include:

#### *State Officials:*

Governor Neil Abercrombie (HI)

Governor Jerry Brown (CA)

Governor Eddie Calvo (GU)

Governor Jay Inslee (WA)

Governor Jack Markell (DE)

Governor Martin O'Malley (MD)

Governor Pat Quinn (IL)

Governor Peter Shumlin (VT)

*Local Officials:*

Mayor Ralph Becker (Salt Lake City, UT)

Mayor James Brainard (Carmel, IN)

Commissioner Paula Brooks (Franklin County, OH)

Supervisor Salud Carbajal (Santa Barbara County, CA)

Mayor Frank Cownie (Des Moines, IA)

Mayor Bob Dixon (Greensburg, KS)

Mayor Eric Garcetti (Los Angeles, CA)

Mayor George Heartwell (Grand Rapids, MI)

Mayor Kristin Jacobs (Broward County, FL)

Mayor Kevin Johnson (Sacramento, CA)

Mayor Michael Nutter (Philadelphia, PA)

Mayor Annise Parker (Houston, TX)

Mayor Patsy Parker (Perdido Beach, AL)

Mayor Madeline Rogero (Knoxville, TN)

Mayor Karen Weitkunat (Fort Collins, CO)

Mayor Dawn Zimmer (Hoboken, NJ)

*Tribal Officials:*

Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (MN)

Reggie Joule, Mayor, Northwest Arctic Borough (AK)

**An [Executive Order](#) to Protect Our Communities**

The Obama Administration has taken significant steps to strengthen the climate resilience of America's communities and economy. More than 30 Federal agencies developed their first-ever Climate Change Adaptation Plans, outlining strategies to protect their operations, programs, and investments to better serve communities and safeguard our public resources in the face of climate change. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Administration has provided resources to rebuild the affected area to be more resilient than before, including support for more climate-resilient roads and infrastructure, and projects that protect drinking water and buffer communities from flooding. In addition, Federal agencies have partnered with

states, cities, tribes, and the private sector to develop strategies to address the impacts of climate change on our freshwater resources, oceans and coasts, and wildlife. Agencies have also built new, data-driven tools to help decision makers and resource managers map and plan for future sea level rise. From Florida to Minnesota, and from Alaska to New York, Federal agencies have partnered with communities to provide funding and technical assistance to address local climate impacts such as sea level rise, flooding, and water scarcity.

To build on this progress, the Executive Order (E.O.) "Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change," signed today directs Federal agencies to:

- **Modernize Federal programs to support climate-resilient investments:** Agencies will examine their policies and programs and find ways to make it easier for cities and towns to build smarter and stronger. Agencies will identify and remove any barriers to resilience-focused actions and investments— for example, policies that encourage communities to rebuild to past standards after disasters instead of to stronger standards – including through agency grants, technical assistance, and other programs in sectors from transportation and water management to conservation and disaster relief.
- **Manage lands and waters for climate preparedness and resilience:** America's natural resources are critical to our Nation's economy, health and quality of life. The E.O. directs agencies to identify changes that must be made to land- and water-related policies, programs, and regulations to strengthen the climate resilience of our watersheds, natural resources, and ecosystems, and the communities and economies that depend on them. Federal agencies will also evaluate how to better promote natural storm barriers such as dunes and wetlands, as well as how to protect the carbon sequestration benefits of forests and lands to help reduce the carbon pollution that causes climate change.
- **Provide information, data and tools for climate change preparedness and resilience:**
- **Plan for climate change related risk:** Recognizing the threat that climate change poses to Federal facilities, operations and programs, the E.O. builds on the first-ever set of Federal agency adaptation plans released earlier this year and directs Federal agencies to develop and implement strategies to evaluate and address their most significant climate change related risks.

To implement these actions, the E.O. establishes an interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, chaired by the White House and composed of more than 25 agencies. To assist in achieving the goals of the E.O., these agencies are directed to consider the recommendations of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

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# Governor O'Malley Announces Appointments to Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council

November 1st, 2013



**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed 17 members to the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, as designated by SB 679. The legislation, passed during the 2013 General Assembly session, creates a Council to continue to the work initiated by the previous Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission, including development and monitoring of the 2012 Maryland State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. A copy of the Plan may be viewed at <http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/DHMH/EXORD01.01.2011.21.pdf>

The first meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at Spring Grove Hospital Campus, 55 Wade Avenue, Dix Building, Basement Conference Room, Catonsville, MD. The meeting is open to the public.

The Council will be co-chaired by Dr. Brian Hepburn, Executive Director of the



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Mental Hygiene Administration at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Ms. Alice Hedt, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Maryland Department of Aging.

Members of the Council:

**Suzanne Carbone** retired from the Montgomery County Public Libraries in 2010. She was the primary caregiver for Bob, her late husband of 40 years, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2000. In 2008, she testified before the U.S. Senate's Special Committee on Aging. Ms. Carbone is an active member of the Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area Chapter, and president of the board for the Friends of Brookside Gardens.

**Banghwa L. Casado, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor at the University of Maryland's School of Social Work. Dr. Casado received her MSW and Ph.D. from the University of Houston. She is currently a fellow for the Gerontological Society of America: Social Research, Policy and Practice Section. Dr. Casado has completed numerous research projects, presented at national conferences, and co-authored journals articles on a variety of topics including caregiving and aging.

**Cynthia D. Fields, M.D.**, is a physician at MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital. She received her medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She completed her residency in psychiatry at the Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Fields is a diplomat, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, with a specialty in psychiatry and a subspecialty of geriatric psychiatry. She is a diplomat through the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties in Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry. Dr. Fields is a part-time instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

**Ernestine Jones Jolivet** is a retired educator. Ms. Jolivet was the caregiver for her mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and her father who had dementia. Ms. Jolivet is a member of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Maryland board. She has been active in outreach, fundraising, and coordination of caregiver conferences for the Association. Ms. Jolivet currently serves as a consumer member of the Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners. She is a Golden Life member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Kimberly Johnston, DNP, MSN, RN, CDDN**, is currently employed by the Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities as a nurse educator and registered nurse monitor. Ms. Johnson received her Master of Science in Nursing from Southern University and her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Capella University. She is a member of numerous professional associations including the Developmental Disabilities Nurses' Association and the Maryland Nurses' Association. Ms. Johnston has more than 30 years of experience working with people with disabilities.

**Karen Kauffman, Ph.D., RN, CRNP-BC.**, is the chair of the Department of Family and Community Health at the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing. Dr. Kauffman also services as an associate professor at the University. She received her Ph.D. in nursing and gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is board certified as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. In 2001, Dr. Kauffman founded Life Passage Care Consultants, Inc., which provides long term care

planning consultation to older adults and families dealing with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

**Karin M. Lakin, M.Ed.**, is employed by Senior Network, Inc. and is part-owner of Cedar Creek Associates. She oversees the operations for two medical day centers and small assisted living homes. Ms. Lakin holds a B.S. in recreation therapy from the University of Maryland and a Master in Education from George Washington University. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services.

**David J. Loreck, M.D.**, serves as the Director at the Baltimore VA Mental Health Hospital Consultation Service. He is board certified in general and geriatric adult psychiatry through the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He is board certified in neuropsychiatry and behavioral neurology through the United Counsel of Neurological Subspecialties. He attended the University of Texas Medical School. Dr. Loreck completed a two year geriatric neuropsychiatry fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Loreck assisted in development of the VA's Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Clinic and the Loch Raven VA nursing home Alzheimer's specialization unit. Dr. Loreck is also an assistant professor at the University of Maryland Medical School.

**William E. Mansbach, Ph.D.**, is a clinical and geriatric psychologist. Dr. Mansbach attended the University of Maryland where he obtained his Ph.D. in clinical psychology. He is the CEO and founder of Mansbach Health Tools, LLC. He is the creator of the Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool (BCAT). The BCAT was designed to identify patients with and without dementia and can be administered in a short period of time.

**Mary Catherine (Cass) Naugle, M.B.A.**, is the executive director of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter. She managed the successful merger of three separately incorporated Alzheimer's Association Chapter's in Maryland to form the Greater Maryland Chapter. Ms. Naugle obtained her MBA from the University of Baltimore and a Master of Arts in Management of Aging Services from the Erickson School, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

**William Neely, M. Div.**, is a chaplain at the Brooke Grove Retirement Village, a continuing care retirement community. Chaplain Neely obtained his Master's in Divinity at Andrews University and holds board certification through the Association of Professional Chaplains. Chaplain Neely served as a church pastor for 24 years before transitioning to profession chaplaincy. He was a co-caregiver for his mother who suffered from non-specified dementia. Chaplain Neely is a volunteer support group leader and speaker for the Alzheimer's Association.

**Richard P. Neuworth, Esq.**, is an attorney and a partner in the firm of Lebau and Neuworth, LLC. Mr. Neuworth obtained his J.D. from the University of Baltimore. He currently specializes in Social Security disability, employment law, and employee benefits. Mr. Neuworth is an active member of the Maryland State Bar Association and the treasurer of the Association's Elder Law Council. He frequently makes presentations to the community organizations regarding disability and employment law.



**Chiadi U. Onyike, M.D.**, is a neuropsychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Onyike attended the University of Nigeria and his Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He currently serves as the Director, Frontotemporal Dementia and Young-Onset Dementias Clinic at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He also serves as an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Hopkins. Dr. Onyike has been active in research, peer-review of educational publications, and mentoring.

**Tonis Paide** is a retired electronics engineer. In 2009 Mr. Paide was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment. Mr. Paide is committed to assisting others by improving the conditions for those with dementia. He is concerned that there is not adequate Alzheimer's research. He resides in Howard County with his wife, Karen, and they are members of the Maryland Alzheimer's Association.

**Ilene Rosenthal, MSW.**, is the program director for the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter. Ms. Rosenthal attended the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She retired from the Maryland Department of Aging (DOA) in 2013 after more than 30 years of service. During her time at DOA, she held various positions including Deputy Secretary. Ms. Rosenthal currently serves on the boards of the United Seniors of Maryland Foundation and the Maryland Gerontological Association.

**Andres Salzar, M.D.**, is a physician and serves as a medical director to nursing and rehabilitation centers throughout central Maryland. Dr. Salzar obtained his medical degree from the Technology University Medical School in Columbia. He is certified in various specialties including wound care and geriatric medicine. Dr. Salzar is a certified by the American Medical Directors Certification Program as a medical director and is a Diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine.

**Michelle J. Upchurch, Esq., MBA, LNHA.**, is the administrator for the Potomac Valley Nursing and Wellness Center in Rockville. She obtained her MBA at West Virginia University College of Business and Economics and Doctor of Jurisprudence at the West Virginia University College of Law. Ms. Upchurch is a licensed by the Maryland State Board of Nursing Home Administrators. She is currently a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, the American Health Care Association, and LifeSpan.

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# Governor O'Malley Appoints Steven Arentz to the Maryland House of Delegates

November 12th, 2013

**ANNAPOLIS** – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley announced the appointment of Queen Anne's County Commission President Steven J. Arentz as Delegate for Legislative District 36, representing parts of Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. He will fill the vacancy left by Stephen S. Hershey, who was recently appointed to the Maryland State Senate for Legislative District 36.

Steven J. Arentz was first elected to the Queen Anne's County Commission in 2010 and has served as its president for the last three years. He currently serves on the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Board and is secretary of the Upper Shore Regional Council. He is a realtor for Long and Foster and previously owned Hemingway's Restaurant on Kent Island. He previously served as chairman and secretary of the Queen Anne's County Economic Development Commission and is a former chair of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce.

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# Governor O'Malley Visits VEEP Set, Highlights Maryland Film Tax Credit Expansion

November 18th, 2013



**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited the set of the Emmy award-winning HBO series, VEEP, to highlight the progress of the Maryland Film Tax credit expansion and its positive impact on Maryland's economy. The expansion includes an increase of \$17.5 million in credits in the FY14 budget. The film tax credit has also provided 2,500 Maryland crew members, cast, and extras with full-time jobs and utilized a combined 6,000 Maryland businesses since the program went into effect in 2011.

"Maryland's thriving economy continues to grow the ranks of the middle class, and to date, we've recovered 97 percent of the jobs lost during the Great Recession," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Working together with our forward-looking colleagues in the General Assembly, we've not only expanded tax credits for quality television shows like VEEP, we've created more job opportunities for more Marylanders."

**Sheila E. Hixson**, chair of the committee that oversees tax credits in the Maryland

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House of Delegates remarked, "I'm excited that the Maryland Film Tax Credit has attracted successful productions like VEEP. It's put Maryland on the national map as a state ready, willing and able to work with Hollywood studios, and created a boom for Maryland's film industry."

The visit included a tour of the 60,000 foot sound stage located in Columbia, MD. Governor O'Malley was also joined by small business vendors who've benefited from the tax credit.

**Byran Koerber, President of Budeke Paints, Inc.**, a fifth generation, family-owned Maryland paint and painting supply business stated, "The impact that an on-going movie or television production has on us is immense. We have reinvested in our company and our staff because of highly-recognizable projects like VEEP and House of Cards."

**Lauri and Leroy Dixon, owners of Party Plus**, a small Maryland business that provides tents, tables and chairs to productions said, "These productions allow us to remain profitable and continue the gainful employment of our staff. Quite frankly, without the work that they provide, our profit would be non-existent and our ability to continue would be hampered to say the least."

The estimated economic impact of the Maryland Film Tax Credit is \$226 million. VEEP's first season had an estimated impact of \$30 million, with 978 Marylanders hired as crew, cast, extras. Additionally, close to 1,200 Maryland businesses and vendors saw purchases and rentals from the production.

As of the summer of 2013, Maryland created jobs faster than any other state in the region and at the fifth fastest rate in the nation. Maryland's vibrant private sector continues to drive economic growth, creating nine out of every 10 new Maryland jobs. Working alongside Maryland's growing businesses, the unemployment rate has plummeted to a four-year low, spurring the recovery of 97 percent of the jobs lost during the economic downturn.

Maryland's economic progress has received national recognition. Maryland is among the five states best positioned to succeed in the new economy according to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. In April, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked Maryland #1 for entrepreneurship and innovation for the second year in a row and among the top ten for economic performance for the fourth year in a row. The Milken Institute ranks Maryland #1 in research and development per capita and #2 for science and technology assets. The non-partisan group The States Project placed Maryland second for economic opportunity. And last year, Maryland entrepreneurs rated the state fourth in the nation for startups per capita according to a study by Fast Company.

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# Efforts to Promote the Integrity of Maryland Correctional Institutions Continue: Maryland Prison Task Force's Work Leads to More Indictments

November 21st, 2013

**Media Contacts:** Nina Smith    Office: 410-974-2316

## Efforts to Promote the Integrity of Maryland Correctional Institutions Continue: Maryland Prison Task Force's Work Leads to More Indictments

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – In 2011, Maryland officials spearheaded the creation of the Maryland Corrections Task Force, a partnership between federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel to combat gangs and root out corruption in Maryland correctional institutions.

Rod Rosenstein, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, stated, "Everybody in the task force anticipated it would result in the prosecution of a significant number of correctional officers."

As a result of coordinated efforts between federal, state, and local partners, an investigation was launched that led to the indictments in April 2013 of 25 individuals, including 13 correctional officers.

The Maryland Task Force continued its work after April, and today that case took another important step forward, as 19 additional individuals — including 14 correctional officers — were indicted. The charges filed today are part of the same case that was launched in April; it was filed under the same case number and will be heard by the same judge. As the U.S. Attorney stated today, "The new charges focus on criminal conduct that occurred prior to April 2013."

"We express our gratitude for the continued good work and responsiveness of the U.S. Attorney's office and our federal law enforcement partners," Gov. O'Malley said. "Since April, we have redoubled our efforts to crack down on corruption and improve security at our correctional institutions — protecting the integrity of our correctional institutions requires constant vigilance, and we continue to improve those efforts every day."

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The attached document summarizes many of the significant actions we've taken since April 2013 to improve security and combat corruption at BCDC. One of the actions we've taken is to form a partnership with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State Police to create an anti-corruption investigations team called the City Corrections Investigative Unit (CCIU). CCIU is currently prosecuting 31 individuals (7 of whom are correctional officers). In fact, two of the correctional officers indicted by the U.S. Attorney's Office today are already being prosecuted by CCIU.

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# Governor O'Malley Hosts Better Choices, Better Results Forum on Maryland Public Safety Initiatives

November 21st, 2013

**Media Contacts:** Nina Smith Office: 410-974-2316

### GOVERNOR O'MALLEY HOSTS *BETTER CHOICES, BETTER RESULTS* FORUM ON MARYLAND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** - Governor Martin O'Malley today hosted Maryland's *Better Choices, Better Results* forum on public safety and homeland security. This was the fourth in a series of sessions designed to foster an ongoing, collaborative dialogue on establishing a stronger middle class and safer neighborhoods across the state of Maryland. More than 200 stakeholders joined the Governor, cabinet officials, members of law enforcement and other policy experts to discuss the significant progress made under [the O'Malley-Brown Administration's strategic goals](#).

"There are many facets of security— security of our homeland, security of our neighborhoods, security of our homes," said Governor O'Malley. "Together, with elected officials, law enforcement and policy professionals at every level of government, we're working every day to strengthen security and make better choices to get better results for Maryland families."

The forum highlighted several key initiatives in achieving the governor's strategic goals in the areas of public safety and homeland security. Currently, the state is [on track](#) to meet the goals of reducing violent crime and cutting the number of violent incidents against women and children by 2018, and better coordination on homeland security efforts by 2016.

**The Safe Streets initiative** brings together law enforcement and other local agencies across the state to stabilize neighborhoods, remove offenders, and make our communities better places to live, work, and raise a family. In Annapolis and Salisbury, it has led to **double-digit reductions in violent crime**.

The **Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI)** closely monitors more than 2,600 of the state's most violent offenders using GPS technology. If those individuals offend again, they are quickly apprehended by police and community supervision agents

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from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and again put behind bars.

Through the **Criminal Justice Dashboard** (CJD), police officers and investigators across Maryland have, literally at their fingertips, the content of approximately 100 databases covering a variety of crimes. The dashboard allows law enforcement instant, real-time access to information essential to apprehending criminals and saving lives. The **License Plate Recognition** (LPR) system allows law enforcement officers to find stolen vehicles with remarkable speed and track vehicles used in crimes as the drivers try to elude law enforcement. Pawn shops and precious metals dealers across the state are linked to law enforcement through the **Regional Automated Property Identification System** (RAPID). If a thief tries to pawn stolen property, police are notified. The material can be returned to its rightful owner, and investigators can track down the suspect.

"Improving public safety and reducing the number of people impacted by crime in Prince George's County is a top priority for my administration. Our success over the last few years is due to the collaborative environment we have created in the County across all agencies and departments as well as the support we have received from the O'Malley-Brown administration," said **Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III**. "I want to thank Governor O'Malley and his public safety officials for investing in Prince George's County to improve public safety and other key areas that will enhance the quality of life for our citizens. We have worked diligently to reduce overall crime to its lowest levels in over 30 years, and we have maintained this low number for the last two years. This is a major achievement for the County and the State."

Maryland has also received national recognition for its emergency preparedness efforts. In 2012, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Trust for America's Health report ranked Maryland in the top category for states best prepared to respond to an emergency. However, public safety officials continue to work toward meeting the state's new 12 core homeland security competencies to better protect the state by land, air, sea and in cyberspace.

These efforts include new coordination on the front lines of an emergency. The **Maryland FiRST**, Maryland First Responders Interoperable Radio System Team, state-of-the-art, P-25 compliant 700 MHz radio communications system allows state and local first responders in every county in Maryland to have seamless radio interoperability with one another using a single radio which they carry to work daily. Phase II of this system, serving the Eastern Shore, is nearing completion and will complement the area in which coverage is already provided along the northern I-95 corridor. In addition, Governor O'Malley and members of Maryland's congressional delegation played an instrumental role in the advocacy that led to Congress' establishment of FirstNet, the first nationwide public safety broadband network that will help the nation achieve interoperable communications capability.

Maryland has also taken real steps to ensure the public's safety in the event of a large-scale disaster. Its first-ever common operating platform (COP) provides real-time data on emergencies to the public and first responders using an online map while integrating different data and technology feeds such as video from the State's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera network. During the peak of SuperStorm Sandy, more than 264,000 Maryland residents and visitors logged onto

OSPREY to find information on power outages, emergency shelters, and flood zones.

This progress would not be possible without the cooperation and support of federal law enforcement agencies and the efforts of the Maryland congressional delegation.

"I'm so proud of the O'Malley-Brown administration for fighting to improve community safety," **U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)**, Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee who puts funds in the federal checkbook for the Department of Justice, said. "Our first responders are the first lines of defense against everything from blizzards to terrorist attacks. Every day when they report for duty, they don't know what they will face. That's why I fight every year for federal funding to pay for the equipment, training and staffing our first responders need to stay safe while protecting our communities. That's why Maryland's progress on coordinated communication is so important because in an emergency, our first responders need to talk to each other and shouldn't have to resort to different radios or crossed signals."

"We have made real progress in increasing awareness and reducing incidents of domestic violence through a strong partnership of federal and state resources," said **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin**. "I strongly supported the recent reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that was enacted by Congress. I will continue to work alongside Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown to encourage greater collaboration among law enforcement, judicial personnel, and public and private service providers to support and protect victims of domestic violence. No one should fear for their safety in their own home or neighborhood."

"I'm pleased Governor O'Malley visited Adelphi today to discuss public safety and security in Prince George's County and throughout Maryland," stated **Congressman Hoyer**. "Thanks to the better choices made by the O'Malley-Brown Administration, we have seen an historic reduction in crime in Prince George's County and in communities across the state. While there is still more work to be done to eliminate crime and violence, coordinated efforts at the federal, state, and local levels have resulted in a safer and more secure Maryland."

Overall, through the effective use of several collaborative initiatives, violent crime has dropped across Maryland by 26% since 2006. This includes statewide reductions in homicides, assaults, rape and robbery. The value this technology is amplified by information-sharing, intra-State with local jurisdictions, and interstate with Maryland's neighbors in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

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# Governor O'Malley Appoints Judges in Frederick, Carroll and Cecil Counties

November 25th, 2013

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley has appointed four new judges: **Master Brenda Alverta Sexton** will serve on the Circuit Court for Cecil County; **Fred Scott Hecker** will serve on the Circuit Court for Carroll County; **Danny Brian O'Connor** will serve on the Circuit Court for Frederick County; and, **Earl Wilbur Bartgis, Jr.** will serve on the District Court for Frederick County. All of the judges selected to serve in Maryland's judiciary were recommended to Governor O'Malley by the trial court judicial nominating commissions.

**Master Sexton** is currently a Domestic Relations Master in the Circuit Court for Cecil County. Prior to her selection as a Master, she was partner at the firm Wilson & Sexton and specialized in matters of family law, estate planning, and probate proceedings. She has also served as a part-time Assistant State's Attorney and as counsel to the Town of North East and the Elkton Board of Zoning Appeals. She has been the Treasurer of the Cecil County Bar Association for over twenty years. Master Sexton received a Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Goucher College.

Since 2005, **Mr. Hecker** has worked as a partner with the Westminster-based firm of Miller & Hecker. His practice focuses on family law, including divorce, custody, and juvenile guardianship proceedings. He also practices criminal law. For the last six years, Mr. Hecker has served as a Settlement Officer for the Circuit Court for Carroll County, and he has been the chair of the Carroll County Local Pro Bono Committee since 2003. He received a Juris Doctor from University of Baltimore School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Gettysburg College.

**Mr. O'Connor** has been a partner at Severn, O'Connor & Kresslein in Frederick since 1998. He is a civil litigator whose practice concentrated on the areas of complex commercial and construction litigation; his clients included individuals, businesses, non-profits, and government entities. He has worked on an array of matters over the course of his thirty-two year career including contract disputes, land use and zoning issues, professional malpractice cases, and domestic relations matters. During that time, Mr. O'Connor also served in leadership positions in several community organizations and bar associations. He received a Juris Doctor from University of Toledo College of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Albany.

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For the past seven years, **Mr. Bartgis** has been a solo practitioner working on matters including commercial litigation, landlord/tenant disputes, real estate contracts, family law, insurance defense, and personal injury cases. Prior to starting his own practice, he worked for the firm Miles & Stockbridge for fifteen years. He also serves as a court-appointed attorney for children in custody cases in Frederick County, and he volunteers with the Maryland Disability Law Center, which presented him with their Legal Advocacy Award in 2010 for his outstanding pro bono efforts. Mr. Bartgis received a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and a Bachelor of Arts from George Mason University.

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# Governor O'Malley to Lead Trade Mission to Brazil, El Salvador

November 27th, 2013

### *Mission to strengthen trade, investment ties with Brazil*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley, First Lady Catherine O'Malley and a delegation of Maryland business leaders, educators and government officials will travel to Brazil and El Salvador for a nine-day trade mission in December. The trip will strengthen economic and cultural ties between Maryland and South and Central America as Governor O'Malley and the delegation meet with top officials, and potential business and investment partners. For the Governor's public itinerary, click [here](#).

"As Maryland's economy grows we must continue to forge new connections, partnerships and investments abroad. The diverse, expanding economies of Brazil and El Salvador are ideal trade and investment partners for our State," Governor O'Malley said. "We are going on this trip to promote job creation and economic growth, both by helping Maryland companies that do business or seek to do business abroad, and by encouraging foreign companies to invest more in Maryland."

The world's 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy, Brazil is home to one of Maryland's 11 foreign trade offices. In 2012, Brazil was Maryland's 11<sup>th</sup>-largest export market, with exports to the country more than doubling from \$143 million in 2009 to \$308 million in 2012. In addition, the Port of Baltimore imports more cargo tonnage from Brazil than any other country in the world. Brazil is the Port's fourth-largest market for exports. In 2012, the Port of Baltimore handled 1.5 million tons of imported goods from Brazil and exported 1.4 million tons to Brazil.

The delegation will include more than 30 Maryland companies, including Lockheed Martin, Premier Rides, Respira Medical, Cambridge International and Earth Networks; Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker; and representatives of University of Maryland, College Park, Morgan State University and Johns Hopkins University. In addition, Secretary of Business and Economic Development Dominick E. Murray, Secretary of State John P. McDonough, Secretary of the Environment Robert M. Summers and Maryland Port Administration officials will also be part of the delegation.



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"As an established technology provider with deep roots in Maryland, we are honored to accompany Governor O'Malley on his trade mission to Brazil," says Earth Networks President and CEO Bob Marshall. "Last year, weather claimed nearly 10,000 lives around the world. Earth Networks is taking the pulse of the planet by providing critical weather data and climate adaptation approaches that help countries increase resilience to severe weather. In Brazil, we are delivering real-time weather data and warnings and look forward to expanding our public/private partnerships with major government agencies and commercial entities."

"I am proud to join Governor O'Malley and the Maryland delegation on this trade mission to Brazil," said Dion D. Banks, Director of Government Affairs for Cambridge International in Cambridge. "I'm looking forward to exploring opportunities for our manufacturing plant in São Paulo and expanding our presence in Brazil. Business ventures like this will position Cambridge International for global growth and new business development."

During the mission, Governor O'Malley and the delegation will promote Maryland as an ideal place to invest and do business. The mission will begin Dec. 1 in São Paulo, Brazil's largest city. There, Governor O'Malley will meet with U.S. diplomats and executives with companies that do business in Maryland and Brazil. The Governor will also address a number of regional business organizations including the Federation of Industries of São Paulo and the Federation of Industries of Rio de Janeiro, which each represent more than 30,000 industrial companies. Later, in Rio de Janeiro, Governor O'Malley will meet Governor Sergio Cabral, as well as with members of Brazil's biotechnology industry.

The trade mission will conclude with two days in El Salvador, Dec. 8 and 9. There, Governor O'Malley and members of the delegation will meet with top Salvadoran elected officials, business groups and cabinet ministers that oversee the country's ports. Maryland's trade with El Salvador, a country of 6.1 million people, totaled \$60 million in 2012.

Maryland's Office of International Investment and Trade works to stimulate foreign direct investment in the State, offers export assistance for small and mid-sized Maryland companies and coordinates international trade and investment missions and trade show opportunities for Maryland companies. For more information on resources available to business that want to market their products or services globally, visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org).

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# Governor O'Malley Proclaims Today American Indian Heritage Day in Maryland

November 29th, 2013

### *Holiday Designation Recognizes the Contributions of First Americans*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley proclaimed today, November 29, 2013, as American Indian Heritage Day in Maryland. During the 2008 session, the Maryland General Assembly approved House Bill 83 making the fourth Friday of November a legal holiday to acknowledge the proud history of American Indians in Maryland.

"In honor of the rich history and culture of the American Indian community in our state, today we officially observe American Indian Heritage Day," said Governor O'Malley. "It is fitting that we recognize the enormous contributions the First Americans have made to Maryland's culture, heritage and shared prosperity, from the birth of our colony to the present day."

The first official designation of the holiday in state history was proclaimed five years ago in November 2008. Sponsored by Delegate Talmadge Branch, House Bill 83 also received strong support and leadership from Senator Joan Carter-Conway and delegates Kumar P. Barve and James E. Proctor Jr.

American Indian Heritage Day in Maryland runs in conjunction with the national designation of the Friday after Thanksgiving as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans, established by the U. S. House of Representatives in November of 2007. The first American Indian Day recognized by a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the Governor of New York.

American Indian Heritage Day in Maryland is recognized as a part of the state and national celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month. In November 1990, a joint resolution was approved by the President of the United States designating November for the month-long celebration. Proclamations are made each year by the President declaring the heritage month celebration.

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